

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Uchiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,406, hereinafter Uchiyama); and Claim 3 was objected to.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representatives on August 9, 2005. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiner agreed that the dependent Claim 3 includes allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 3. Thus, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are in condition for allowance.

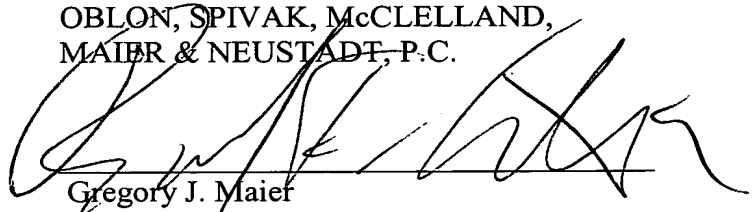
In addition, it is respectfully requested that the references submitted in the IDS filed November 11, 2004 be considered on the record, and that the Examiner send the undersigned an initialed PTO-1449 form to that effect.

Application No. 10/809,705
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2005

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gregory J. Maier, is written over the printed name and firm name.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
I:\ATTY\JW\251150US\251150US_AM 116 FINAL.DOC

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440